

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 NEA-10 /169 W

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R 081400Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2343

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0588

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, PO

SUBJ: US-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS: ARAB OIL, AZORES, AFRICA

1. SUMMARY. THANKS TO MIDDLE EAST WAR AND ARAB BOYCOTT OF OIL FOR SELECTED COUNTRIES NOTABLY PORTUGAL AND US, NEW WORKING ALLIANCE HAS EMERGED WITH FAR REACHING BENEFITS FOR PORTUGAL, ACCORDING TO LOCAL VIEW. THIS SEEN AS MITIGATING NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF BOYCOTT, AS IT CAN ONLY RESULT IN NEW ERA OF "UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN US AND PORTUGAL (MEANING US SUPPPRT AT LAST FOR PORTUGAL IN AFRICA). END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO LUANDA'S NUMBER ONE IDEALOGUE, DGS SUPER CHIEF SAO JOSE LOPES, CLOUD OF MIDDLE EAST EVENTS AND ARAB OIL BOYCOTT HAS STERLING SILVER LINING FOR PORTUGAL: AT LAST US CAN BE COUNTED ON TO ACT LIKE ALLY TOWARDS PORTUGAL, JUST AS LATTER HAS REMAINED FAITHFUL TO US IN THIS AND PREVIOUS CRISES. LOPES SAYS HE AND COHORTS HEARTENED BY WHAT THEY SEE AS CLEAR EXAMPLE OF SMALL COUNTRY (SOZINHO, JUST LIKE PORTUGAL) SURROUNDED BY BUT VICTORIOUS OVER HOARDES OF ENEMIES (JUST LIKE PORTUGAL). THIS POSSIBLE FOR THREE REASONS:

(A) INDOMITABLE CHARACTER OF ISRAELIS (JUST LIKE PORTUGUESE);

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(B) POWER, DETERMINATION AND GENEROSITY OF US, AND EXTRA-

ORDINARY EFFICIENCY OF RESUPPLY EFFORT -- ALL IN SPITE OF IMPRESSION WORLD OUTSIDE HAD GAINED LATELY THAT US IN STATE OF GENERAL DECAY; AND (C) AVAILABILITY TO US AND ISRAEL OF PORTUGUESE FACILITIES IN AZORES.

3. ACCORDING TO THIS VIEW, PORTUGAL CAN NOW AT LAST COUNT ON KIND OF SUPPORT IT HAS DESERVED ALL ALONG FROM US - NAMELY IN AZORES AND AFRICAN CONTEXTS.

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING REPORTED SINCE LOPES DOES UNDOUBTEDLY REFLECT WIDELY HELD RIGHT WING PORTUGUESE ATTITUDES IN ANGOLA ABOUT US, WORLD OUTSIDE, AND PORTUGAL'S RELATIONSHIPS. IF HIS VIEW IN ANY WAY SYMPTOMATIC OF CURRENT THINKING IN LISBON, IMPLICATIONS FOR ONGOING LUSO-AMERICAN RELATIONS OBVIOUS. IN ADDITION AZORES AND AFRICAN ANGLES, FOREGOING SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION LISBON 4040 AND LUANDA 587.
BRIGGS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LUANDA00588
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731147/aaaabihih.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS: ARAB OIL, AZORES, AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, AO, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005